

BOOK REVIEWS

THE WESTERN JOURNAL OF MEDICINE does not review all books sent to it by the publishers. A list of new books received is carried in the Advertising Section.

VASCULAR SURGERY—Volume 1—Peripheral Arterial Diseases—John J. Cranley, MD, Director, Department of Surgery and Department of Medical Education, Good Samaritan Hospital, Cincinnati, Director, Kachelmacher Memorial Varicose Vein Clinic, Logan, Ohio, and Kachelmacher Memorial Research Laboratory for Peripheral Venous Diseases, Good Samaritan Hospital, Cincinnati, Assistant Clinical Professor of Surgery, University of Cincinnati, College of Medicine; With contributions by Charles D. Hafner, MD, Raymond J. Krause, MD, and Ernest H. Messe, MD. Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc., Medical Department, 2350 Virginia Avenue, Hagerstown, MD (21740), 1972. 282 pages, with 160 illustrations, \$19.95.

Stimulated by the work of DosSantos in Portugal, 22 years ago Freeman and Wylie of San Francisco began the modern era of vascular reconstructive surgery in this country. Cranley, a disciple of Linton and Herrmann, was among the first to pick up and further develop these techniques. His experience is reflected in this book which is a sound epitome of modern vascular thinking and practice. He discusses controversial topics fairly but does not hesitate to state his own convictions based on his extensive experience. The book is a thorough introduction to the surgical treatment of peripheral arterial diseases. All the major disease entities which custom includes in this general title are thoroughly covered, with a survey of etiology, pathogenesis, abnormal physiology, diagnosis, and a brief but satisfactory outline of non-surgical treatment. The description of the surgical approach to these conditions is concise but complete. Students, surgical residents, and members of other specialty groups will find this an excellent introduction to modern vascular surgery.

FRANK H. LEEDS, MD

UPPERS AND DOWNERS—David E. Smith, MD, and Donald R. Wesson, MD. Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, NJ (07632), 1973. Available through Haight-Ashbury Publications, P.O. Box 27278, San Francisco, CA 94127. 152 pages, \$2.45 plus 35¢ postage and handling. California residents add sales tax.

This is a collection of essays by professionals close to the drug scene and whose experience extends to the very birth of the Haight-Ashbury phenomenon. This effort covers the non-opioid drugs; amphetamines, barbiturates, methaqualone, and cocaine. These are keen and sensitive observations by persons completely familiar with this borderland of medical practice. The essay on the treatment of barbiturate addiction is extremely valuable from a practical standpoint. Cocaine, an old-timer, appears to be making a comeback on the illicit drug scene. It is well covered in a chapter.

Throughout the book the authors give much attention to the manufacturing and distribution of these drugs. They believe that the manufacturers are motivated by profits and that the distribution has been unacceptably careless. The prescribing habits of American physicians are critically reviewed and we are forcefully reminded that over-prescription of drugs, particularly with questionable indications, is hazardous.

With few exceptions most of the pieces include one of the editors as an author. Therefore, the collection hangs together nicely and does not suffer from the disjointed effect of many such collections.

There are two notable exceptions. The rough voice of Senator Mike Gravel gives the drug industry a thorough sandpapering for its alleged irresponsibility in the manufacture and control of drugs. The political and economic aspects of drug abuse echo through most of these essays.

Finally, Dr. Thomas S. Szasz, well-known inducer of excessive catecholamine levels in orthodox psychiatrists, offers a chapter on the ethics of addiction which proclaims that personal freedom should extend to the right of self-medication, and that drug abuse is indeed a moral rather than a medical problem. We *do* have the right to take narcotics and other drugs, says Dr. Szasz, if we conduct ourselves as law-abiding citizens. Existentialism unlimited!

JACK D. GORDON, MD

PILLS, PROFITS, AND POLITICS—Milton Silverman, PhD, Research Pharmacologist and Lecturer in Pharmacology, University of California, San Francisco; and Philip R. Lee, MD, Professor of Social Medicine, University of California, San Francisco. University of California Press, 2223 Fulton Street, Berkeley, CA (94720), 1974. 421 pages, \$10.95.

The two authors, one a former Assistant Secretary for Health, Education, and Welfare and the other a former newspaperman and now a research pharmacologist, have joined forces to produce this book. Each has an acknowledged familiarity with the subject. This book will cause ripples if not waves in the already troubled waters of the pharmaceutical industry and its relations with government. It will be read with interest by persons in or out of medicine who are interested in this subject of so much controversy. It will no doubt sell well in the present climate.

MALCOLM S. M. WATTS, MD

MICROBIOLOGY—Second Edition—Bernard D. Davis, MD, Adele Lehman Professor of Bacterial Physiology, Harvard Medical School; Renato Dulbecco, MD, Assistant Director of Research, Imperial Cancer Research Fund Laboratories, London; Herman N. Eisen, MD, Professor of Immunology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge; Harold S. Ginsberg, MD, Professor and Chairman, Department of Microbiology, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York; and W. Barry Wood, Jr., MD (deceased), Boury Professor and Director, Department of Microbiology, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore. Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc., Medical Department, 2350 Virginia Avenue, Hagerstown, MD (21740), 1973. 1584 pages, with 1300 illustrations, \$27.50.

The first edition of this text (which appeared about 6 years ago) rapidly established itself as the most imaginatively composed book on the fundamentals of microbiology and immunology for medical students. The second edition lives up fully to the standards of the first, and perhaps even exceeds them in some areas.

The eminence of the authors can be judged by the fact that, of six names listed, five are members of the National Academy of Sciences. Since Dr. Barry Wood's untimely death, the section on bacterial and mycotic infections has been revised by Dr. McCarty with many different collaborators. While this makes for a less uniform coverage of the subjects than before, most of the sections are of very high caliber. Particular mention should be made of the comprehensive, 33-page section on Gram negative and enteric bacteria by A. Sonnenwirth.

A 280-page section on immunology by H. Eisen is probably the most lucid and sophisticated summary of knowledge in the field of fundamental immunology currently available. (This section has also been published separately as a paperback for \$10.00.)

The entire book places strong emphasis on logical development of scientific knowledge in the field, rather